

Claim Amendments

Please cancel claim 25.

Please amend claim 28 as follows

Claims 1-25 (Canceled).

Claim 26. (Withdrawn) The isolated protein of claim 28, wherein the protein comprises at least twelve contiguous amino acids of a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs:1-10.

Claim 27. (Withdrawn) The isolated protein of claim 28, wherein the isolated protein has an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- 1
- (i) residues 1 to 50 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - (ii) residues 1 to 50 of SEQ ID NO: 2;
 - (iii) residues 1 to 50 of SEQ ID NO: 3;
 - (iv) residues 1 to 50 of SEQ ID NO: 4;
 - (v) residues 1 to 50 of SEQ ID NO: 5;
 - (vi) residues 1 to 50 of SEQ ID NO: 6;
 - (vii) residues 1 to 50 of SEQ ID NO: 7;
 - (viii) residues 1 to 50 of SEQ ID NO: 8;
 - (ix) residues 1 to 50 of SEQ ID NO: 9;
 - (x) residues 1 to 50 of SEQ ID NO: 10;
 - (xi) residues 125 to 188 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
 - (xii) residues 125 to 188 of SEQ ID NO: 2;
 - (xiii) residues 122 to 185 of SEQ ID NO: 3;
 - (xiv) residues 127 to 190 of SEQ ID NO: 4;
 - (xv) residues 125 to 188 of SEQ ID NO: 5;
 - (xvi) residues 132 to 195 of SEQ ID NO: 6;
 - (xvii) residues 131 to 194 of SEQ ID NO: 7;
 - (xviii) residues 131 to 194 of SEQ ID NO: 8;

- (xix) residues 127 to 190 of SEQ ID NO: 9;
- (xx) residues 125 to 188 of SEQ ID NO: 10;
- (xxi) residues 211 to 229 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
- (xxii) residues 206 to 224 of SEQ ID NO: 3;
- (xxiii) residues 237 to 591 of SEQ ID NO: 1;
- (xxiv) residues 237 to 592 of SEQ ID NO: 2;
- (xxv) residues 235 to 589 of SEQ ID NO: 3;
- (xxvi) residues 239 to 594 of SEQ ID NO: 4;
- (xxvii) residues 237 to 591 of SEQ ID NO: 5;
- (xxviii) residues 244 to 599 of SEQ ID NO: 6;
- (xxix) residues 243 to 598 of SEQ ID NO: 7;
- (xxx) residues 243 to 598 of SEQ ID NO: 8;
- (xxxi) residues 239 to 594 of SEQ ID NO: 9; and
- (xxxii) residues 237 to 592 of SEQ ID NO: 10.

Claim 28. (Currently amended) An isolated protein comprising at least ~~twelve~~ contiguous amino acids of a one conserved region of SEQ ID NO: 11 that consists of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of

- ✓ (i) residues 1 to 50 of SEQ ID NO: 11;
- (ii) residues 109 to 120 of SEQ ID NO: 11;
- (iii) residues 135 to 198 of SEQ ID NO: 11;
- (iv) residues 221 to 239 of SEQ ID NO: 11; and ✓
- (v) residues 249 to 604 of SEQ ID NO: 11.

and at least one or more ~~variable (V)~~ region amino acids of SEQ ID NO: 11; that consists of an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- ✓ (a) residues 51 to 108 of SEQ ID NO: 11;
- (b) residues 121 to 134 of SEQ ID NO: 11;
- (c) residues 199 to 220 of SEQ ID NO: 11; and
- (d) residues 240 to 248 of SEQ ID NO: 11;

wherein the isolated protein is not has at least one fewer variable region than a wild-type NhhA polypeptide and wherein upon administration to a mammal the protein elicits an immune response against one or more strains of *N. meningitidis*.

Claim 29. (Withdrawn) The isolated protein of claim 28, having an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO: 23; SEQ ID NO: 24, SEQ ID NO: 25; SEQ ID NO: 26; SEQ ID NO: 27; SEQ ID NO: 33; SEQ ID NO: 34 SEQ ID NO: 35; SEQ ID NO: 36; SEQ ID NO: 37; SEQ ID NO: 38; and SEQ ID NO: 39.

Claim 30. (Previously amended) An allelic variant of the isolated protein of claim 28, having at least 80% amino acid sequence identity to the isolated protein.

Claim 31. (Previously amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising one or more isolated proteins according to claim 28 and a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient.

Claim 32. (Previously amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 31 which is immunogenic.

Claim 33. (Previously added) The isolated protein of claim 28, having the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 23.

Claim 34. (Previously added) A mature, processed form of the isolated protein of claim 33, having the amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 35.

Please add new claims 35 and 36 as follows:

Claim 35. (New) An isolated protein having at least 80% amino acid sequence identity with the isolated protein of claim 28.

Claim 36. (New) An isolated protein having at least 90% amino acid sequence identity with the isolated protein of claim 28.
